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EXTENSION SERVICE
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THIS LOOKS GOOD

EIGHTEEN THOUSAND NATIVE PECAN TREES BUDDED IN TWO DAYS
Local Leadership Proved Its Value in a Texas County.

By C. L. Chambers.

Two years ago the extension agent of Gillespie County, Tex., adopted a long-time program centering on a limited number of projects to meet the needs of the county. The development of the pecan industry was selected because it had been demonstrated as worth while by work done in the county several years before.

How It Was Begun.

Local leaders were selected from 18 communities, and a county-wide meeting was called to work out a plan of procedure. Petitions were given local leaders to circulate among their neighbors to determine whether enough people were interested to warrant conducting budding demonstrations. In 1922, 12 budding schools were held attended by 300 farmers. The farmers budded 900 trees under the agent's direction.

Setting the Goal.

In 1923, meetings were held in all communities to arouse county-wide interest and action. The county agent and local leaders from 23 communities outlined a definite line of procedure. The first goal, budding 5000 trees, was raised to 15,000 through the encouragement of the county judge, who with the commissioners' court contributed to the enterprise by providing the wax required. The pecan growers of San Saba County donated the buds used.

Covering the County.

The county agent continued to train leaders who in turn trained others; ordinary buds being used for practice. Each local leader circulated an agreement to which the farmer, the county agent, the commissioners' court and the State agricultural college were parties, and under which they signed up for a definite number of trees. A final county-wide meeting, attended by over 300 farmers, was held shortly before the date set for the budding.



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The Grand Finale.

On the day appointed, the local leaders came to the courthouse for the buds, wax and budding knives, which they distributed. The county agent drove from community to community to see that the program worked smoothly. At the end of two days, more than 18,000 buds had been set, and in June more than 50 per cent of these were living.

Original distribution to all extension directors, supervisors, and county extension agents.